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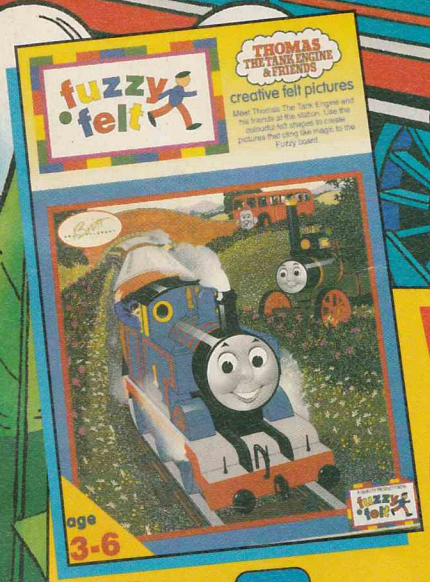
Marvel

9th Feb. 1996
No 217 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



WIN! Thomas FUZZY FELT

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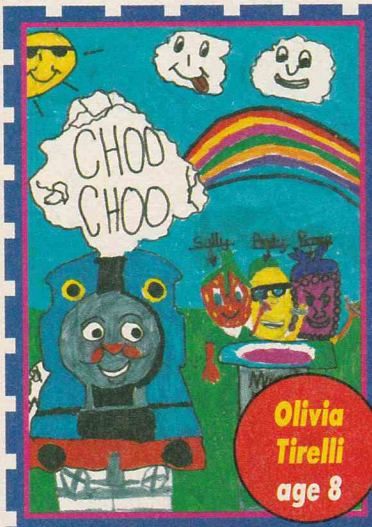
Great new stories! Fun and games!

ALL AB

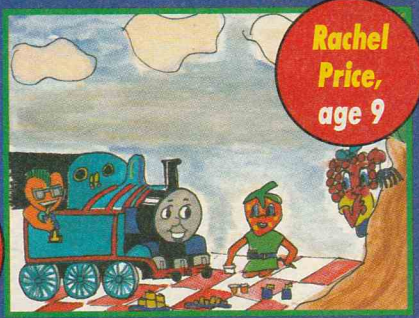
• Notice Board! •

Peep! Peep! Lots has happened on the Island of Sodor recently. In our first story, Dirty Bertie, you'll find out why the cheeky bus came to regret teasing Thomas! The little tank engine helps solve a mystery in Thomas and Star. And the Fat Controller's plans for a newspaper soon backfire, in Railway News! There's lots of colouring for you to do, and puzzles to try! What fun! Peep! Peep!

We received hundreds of brilliant entries for our Thomas/Munch Bunch competition. Here are a few of the winners.

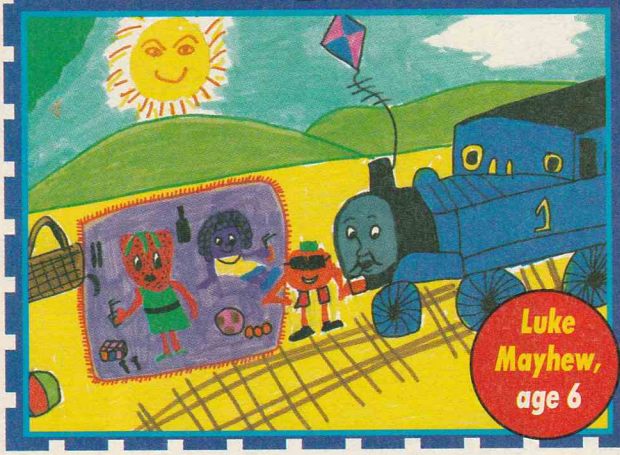


Olivia Tirelli age 8



Rachel Price, age 9

Joshua Fry age 3



Luke Mayhew, age 6

Dominic Geoghegan, Age 12

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Chairman: Jim Galton; Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editorial: Cynthia O'neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. Thanks to Tim Marwood, John York and Geoff Cowan for their contributions to this comic. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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19. **Railway news!**
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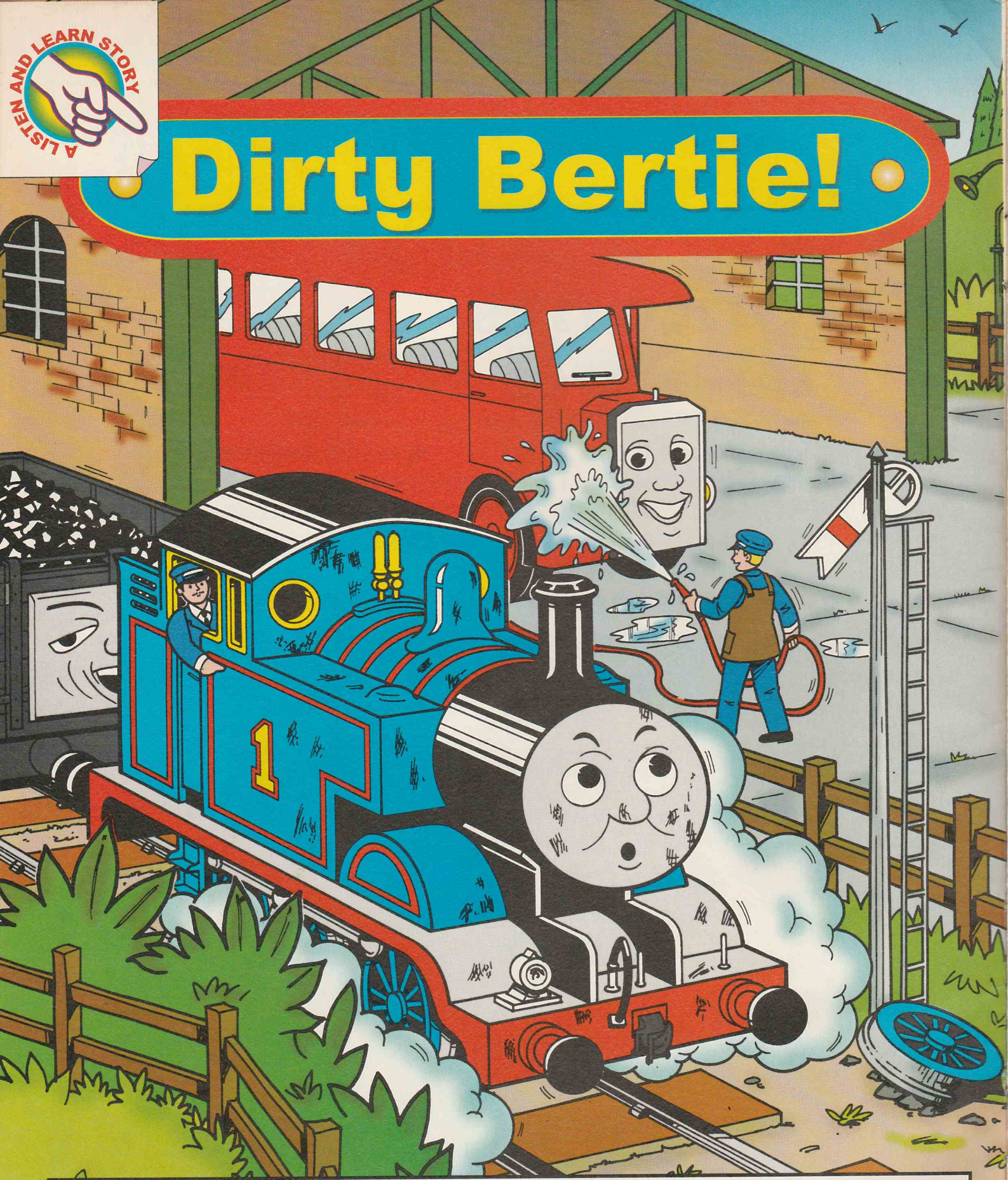
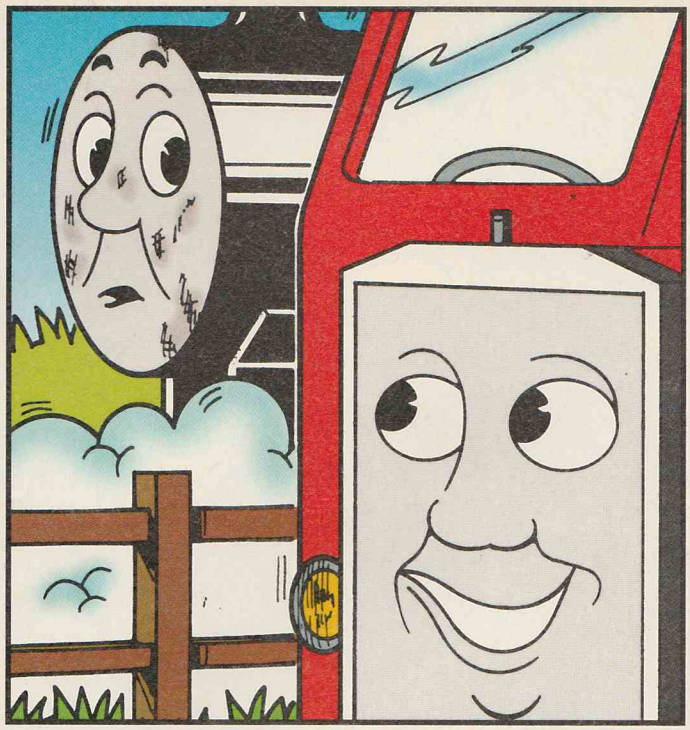
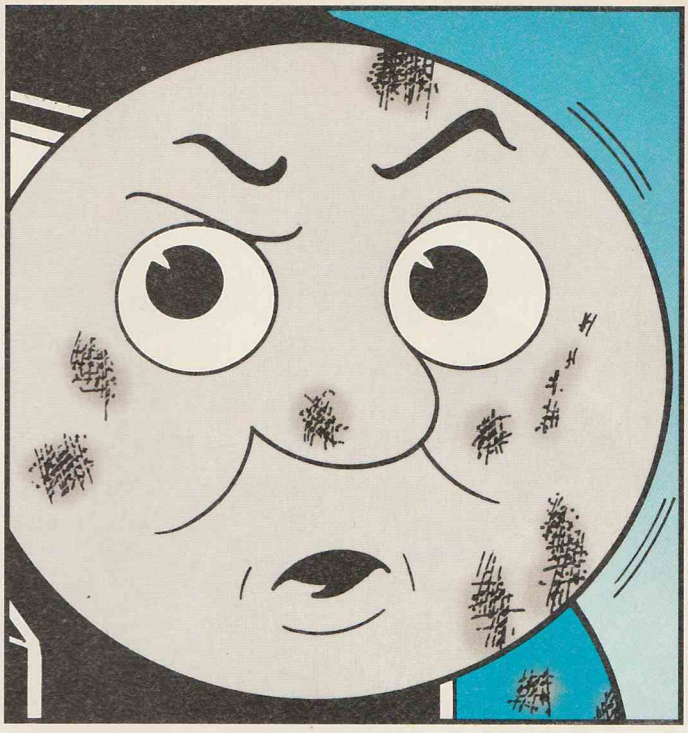


1. Thomas had just collected some trucks full of coal from the Big Harbour. His paintwork was very dusty and dirty. Thomas even had big sooty smudges on his face.

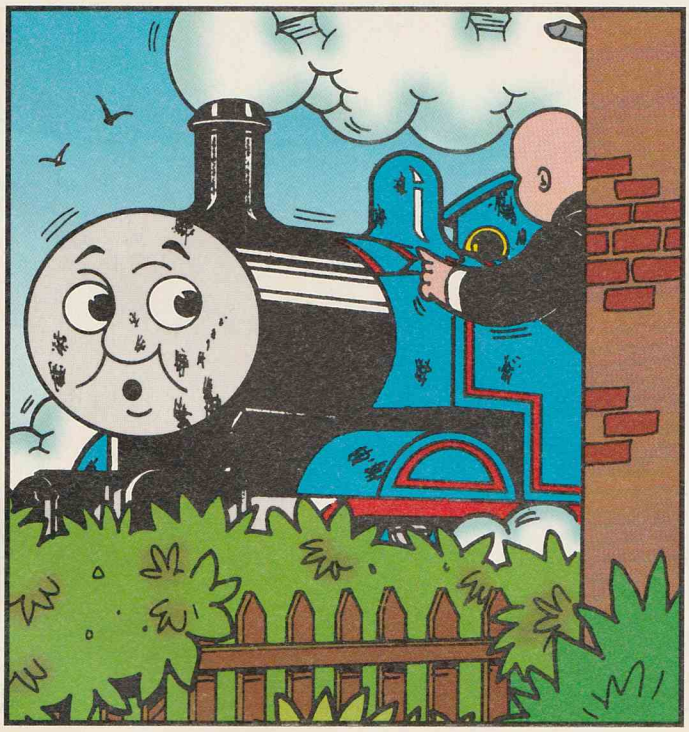
2. As he returned to the Main Station, he passed the bus depot. Thomas had to pull up nearby until a signal showed the line was clear. He saw Bertie was being cleaned.



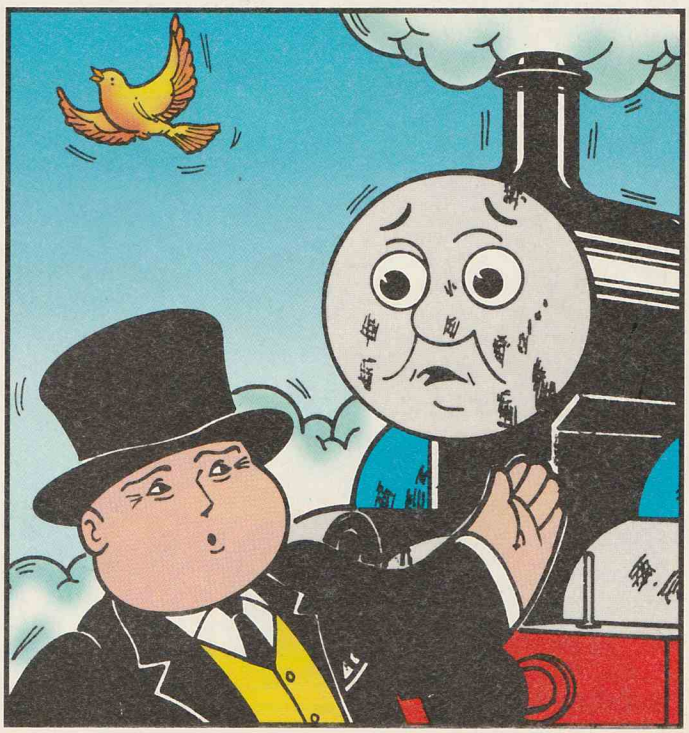
3. "Hello, Thomas!" laughed Bertie. "You look as if you need a scrub too! I can't imagine what my passengers would say if I were as grubby!" "Cheek!" fumed Thomas.



4. "It's not my fault," he told Bertie. "You try carrying coal and keeping clean! I'm sure to get a good wash back at the yard." "The sooner the better!" grinned Bertie.

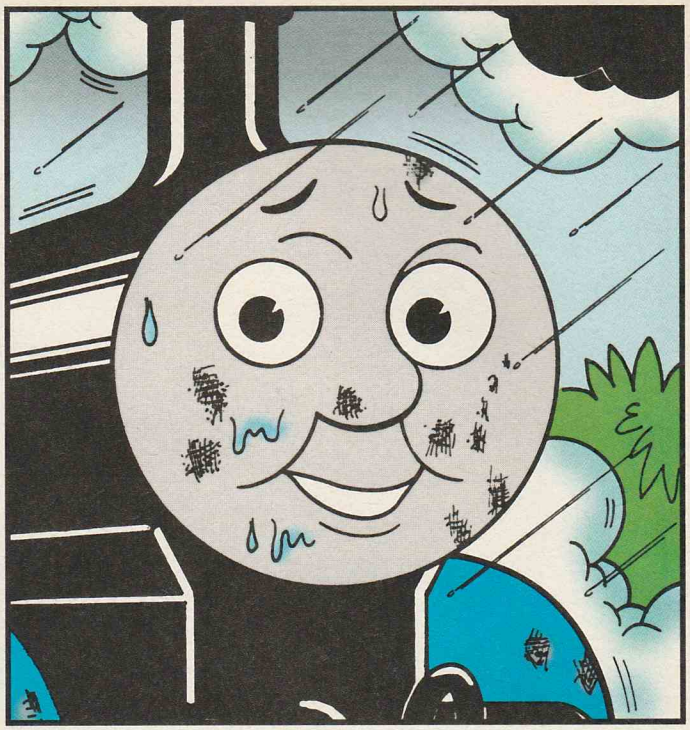


5. The signal changed and Thomas puffed on his way. Shining all over, Bertie went to pick up his passengers. At the Main Station, Thomas had a shock.

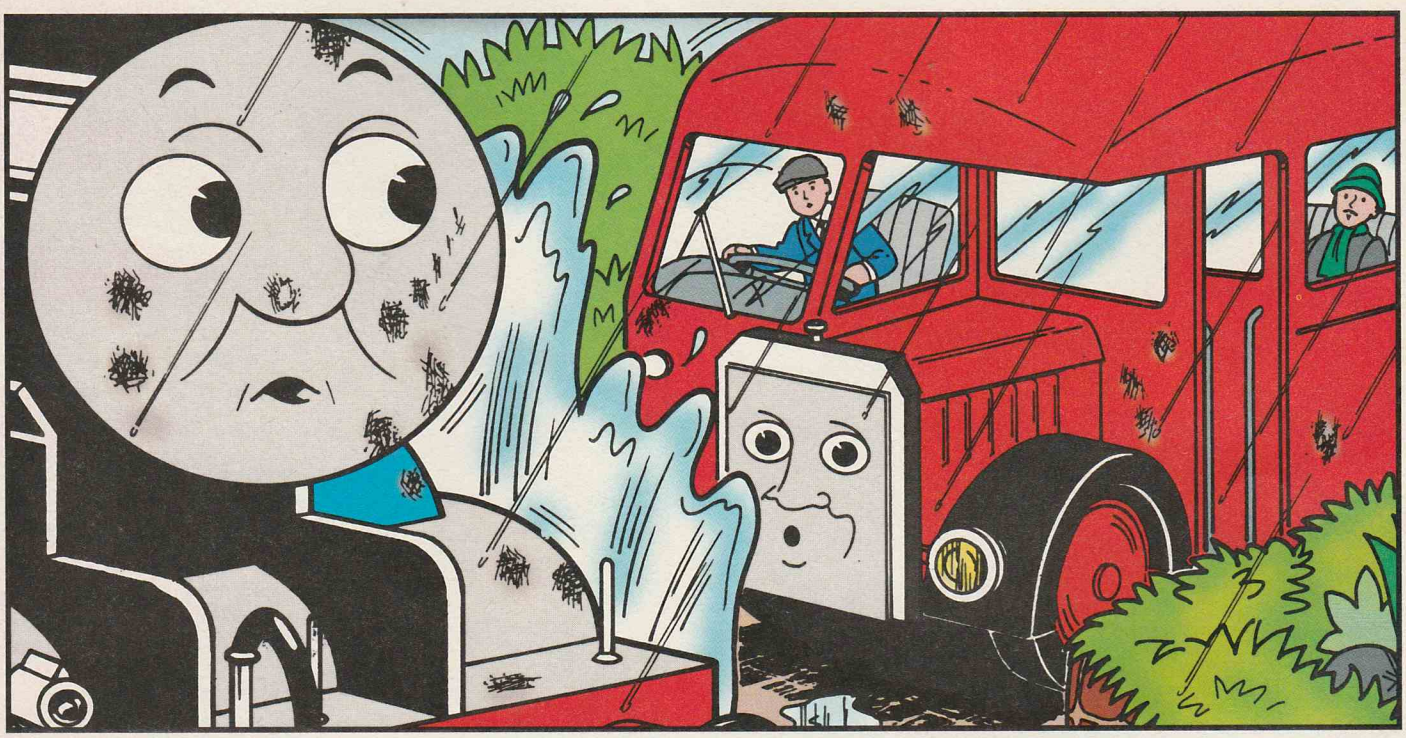


6. "There's no time to wash you," said the Fat Controller. "You must take a passenger train right away!" "Oh, no! I hope Bertie doesn't see me like this again," said Thomas.

7. But Bertie did. "Come clean and admit you haven't been washed yet!" teased Bertie. "No wonder passengers prefer to travel on a smart bus!"



8. "No, they don't!" huffed Thomas. Suddenly, clouds swept across the sky and it began to rain heavily. "This rain will help to wash me down!" thought Thomas.

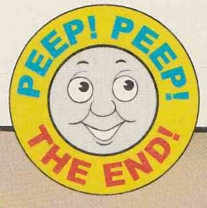


9. But Bertie was not so pleased. "It'll ruin my polished paintwork," he grumbled. As they hurried on, both Thomas and Bertie were soon splashing through muddy puddles.

10. Later, Thomas puffed past a level-crossing. He accidentally sent a wave of puddle water over Bertie, who was waiting to cross the line. "Look out!" cried the bus.

11. At last, the rain stopped. Poor Bertie was very dirty. Thomas returned to the Main Station yard and finally had a good wash and brush up. Then, Bertie arrived with passengers for the railway. He had not been given another clean yet. "Now who's a sight?" called Thomas. "A water pipe burst at the depot," replied Bertie, sadly. "I can't be washed again until it's mended!"

12. Thomas felt sorry for Bertie. He spoke to the Fat Controller who agreed to let Bertie be cleaned in the engine yard. "Drive in, Bertie. It won't take long!" called Thomas, kindly. The bus was very grateful. "Thank you," he said, happily. "I'll never tease you again." "Oh, it doesn't matter," smiled Thomas. "It was only good, **clean** fun!"

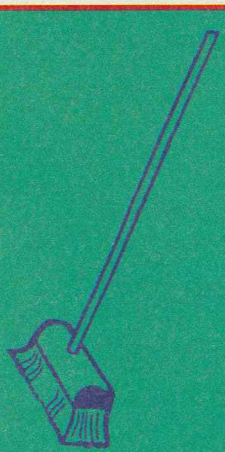


Count and colour!

The railway staff have worked hard all morning to make the engines clean and shiny! Which engines can you see here, looking very smart? That's right - hello, Edward, James and Henry!

Now have fun colouring in this busy picture!

How many of these things can you count?



YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me about Peter Sam? I've seen him in my books.
Love George Duncan, aged 2

In the days when Peter Sam was called Stuart, and Sir Handel was called Falcon, the two friends used to work at a railway near the mines. Peter Sam is a kind, friendly engine. He is always Really Useful!

Dear Fat Controller,
Please could you tell me how Duck was given such an unusual name?
Love from Benjamin Davies, aged 3

Duck has this unusual nickname because the other engines say he waddles! He doesn't really waddle, but he prefers Duck to his real name, Montague.

Dear Fat Controller,
Please can you tell me how you came to control the whole railway?
Love George Bharat, aged 2

I came to the Island of Sodor many years ago as an engineer and helped to build the railway. In time, I became a director and then the Chairman of the railway that I helped to build!

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

Dear Fat Controller,
Here's a photo of me in my new hat and scarf! I live in Germany and this smart set was a present from England.
Love from Sam Milligan, aged 4

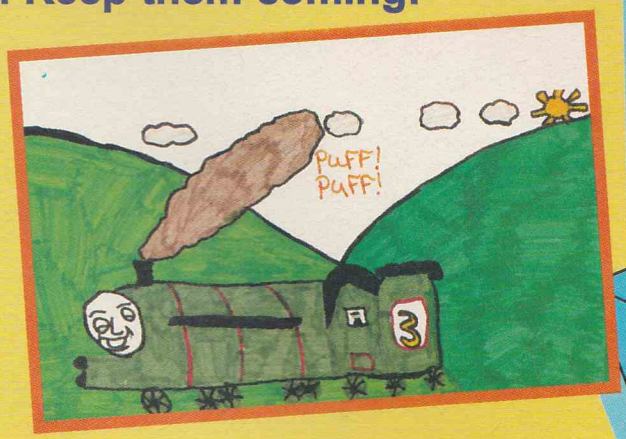
BIRTHDAYS

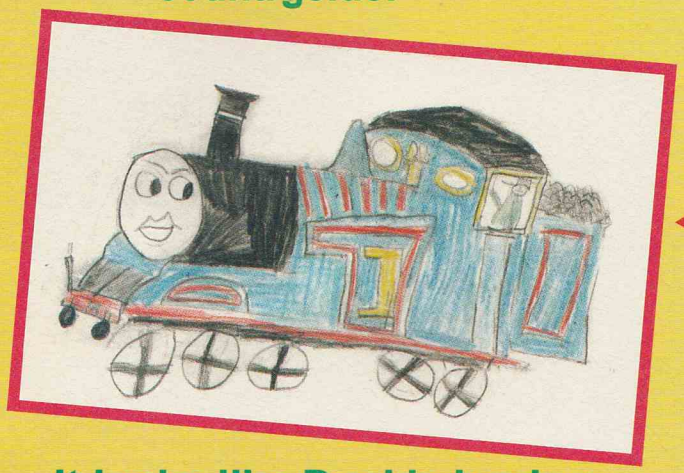
A special birthday hello goes out to
Jack Churchward, aged 4,
Patrick Hürter, aged 4,
Zachary Fisher, aged 6, and
Ciaran Stoddart, aged 3

Drawing Board!

Thanks for sending your lovely pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board! Keep them coming!

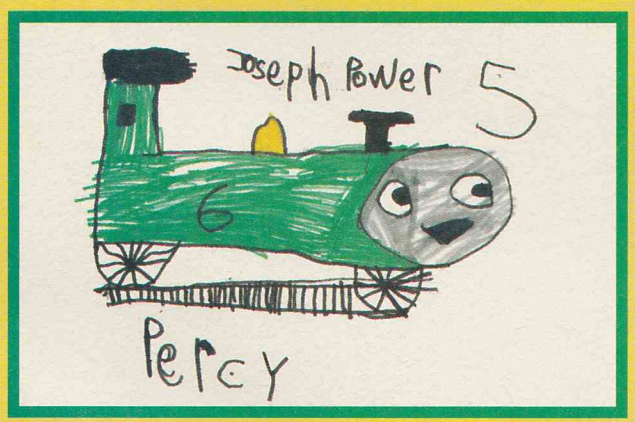
Stacey Read, aged 9, sent in this lovely picture of Henry in the countryside!





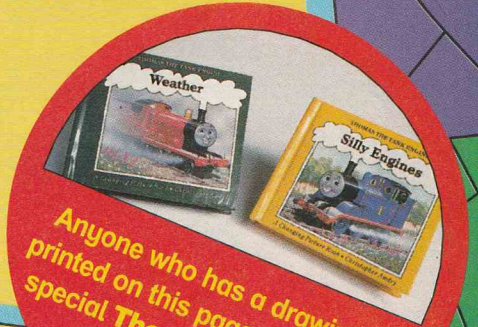
Thanks to Jacob Eastick, aged 7, for this splendid drawing of Thomas!

It looks like Duck's having a busy day! This picture is from Christopher Bennett, aged 7.



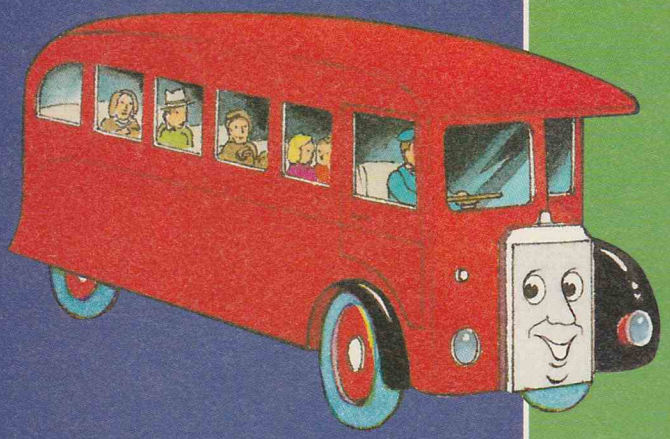
Percy looks very happy in this smiley picture by Joseph Power, aged 5.

Send your drawings of Thomas and his friends to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



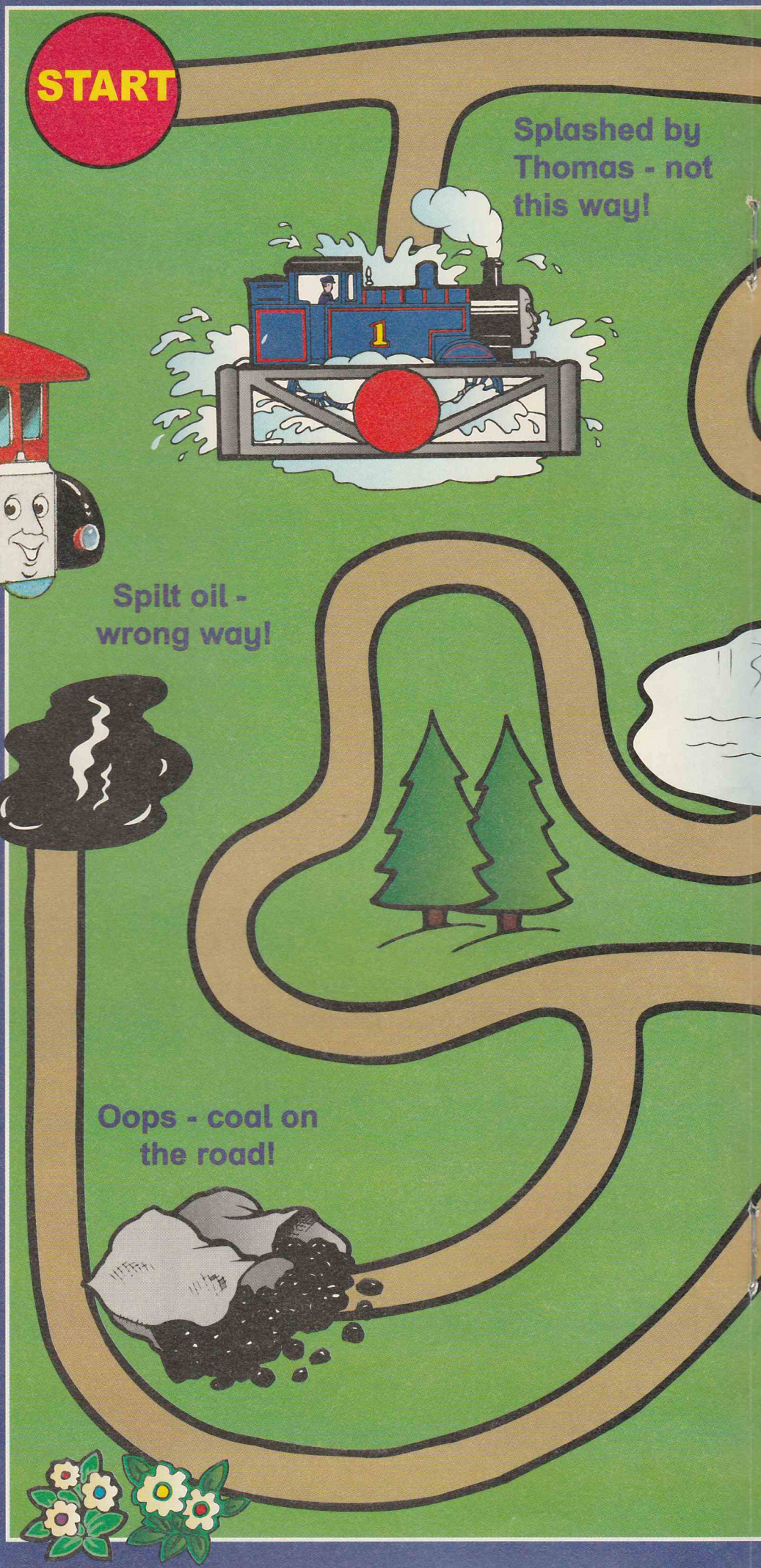
Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book.

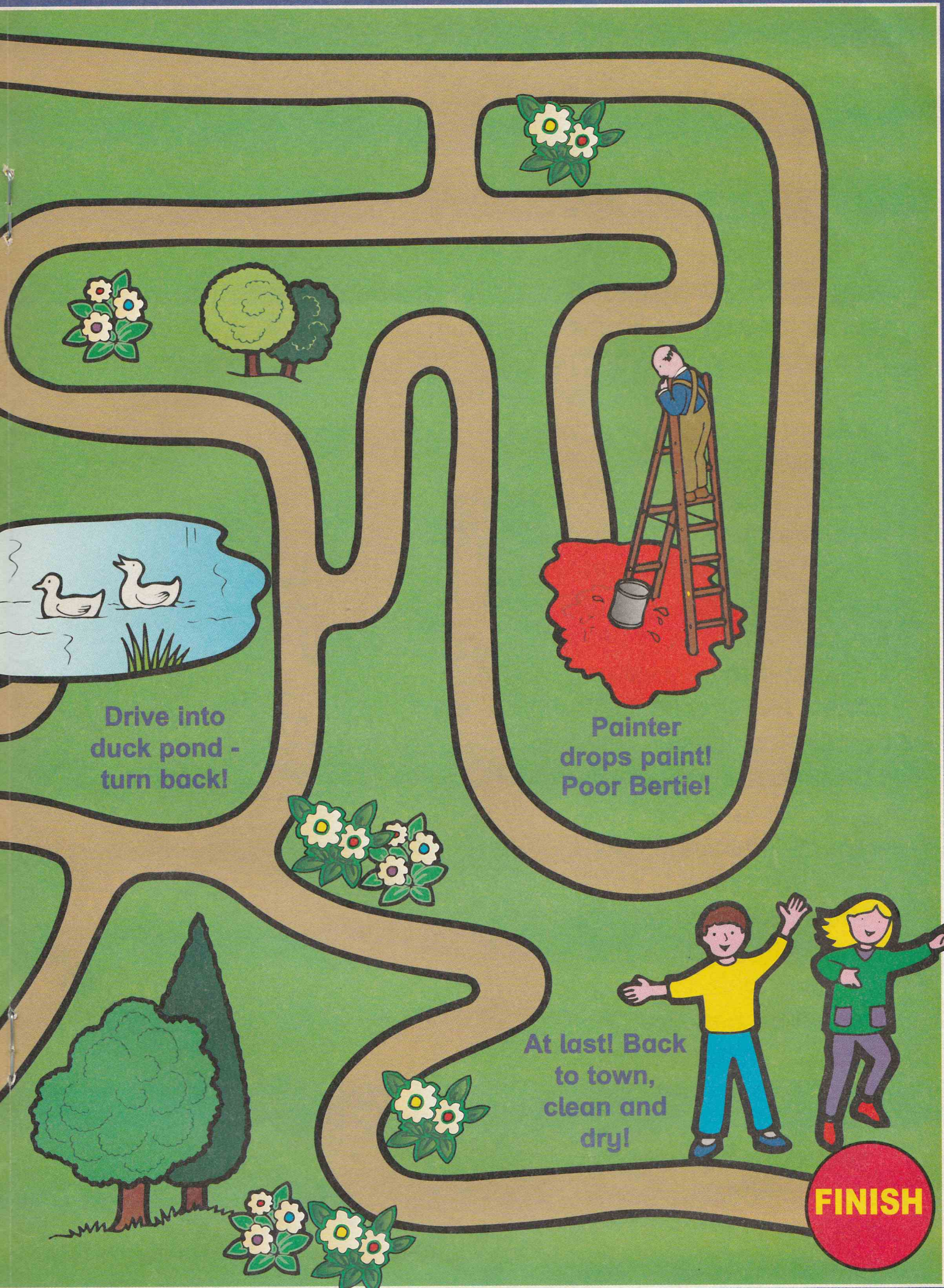
Bertie's Maze!



Bertie the Bus is on his way from the School to the Town. If he chooses the wrong roads, he is going to get very dirty indeed! His passengers won't be pleased! What way should Bertie go to keep clean and dry?

can you find the right way to go?




Drive into duck pond - turn back!
Painter drops paint! Poor Bertie!
At last! Back to town, clean and dry!
FINISH

Thomas and Star!

Thomas was puffing happily through the countryside on his branch line. Suddenly, he heard a strange sound from beneath his wheels. CLANG!

"Smoke and fire!" gasped Thomas. "What made that noise?"

Thomas pulled up and his driver climbed out of the cab.

"I hope one of your wheels hasn't cracked," he said, anxiously.

He tapped each wheel with a hammer. But they were all fine. Thomas was very relieved.

Then his fireman found a horseshoe lying beside the track.

"Look! It's bent out of shape," he said, picking it up. "It must have been lying on the line."

"And I ran right over it," said Thomas. "So that's what I heard!"

When the little tank engine set off again, his fireman took the horseshoe with him.

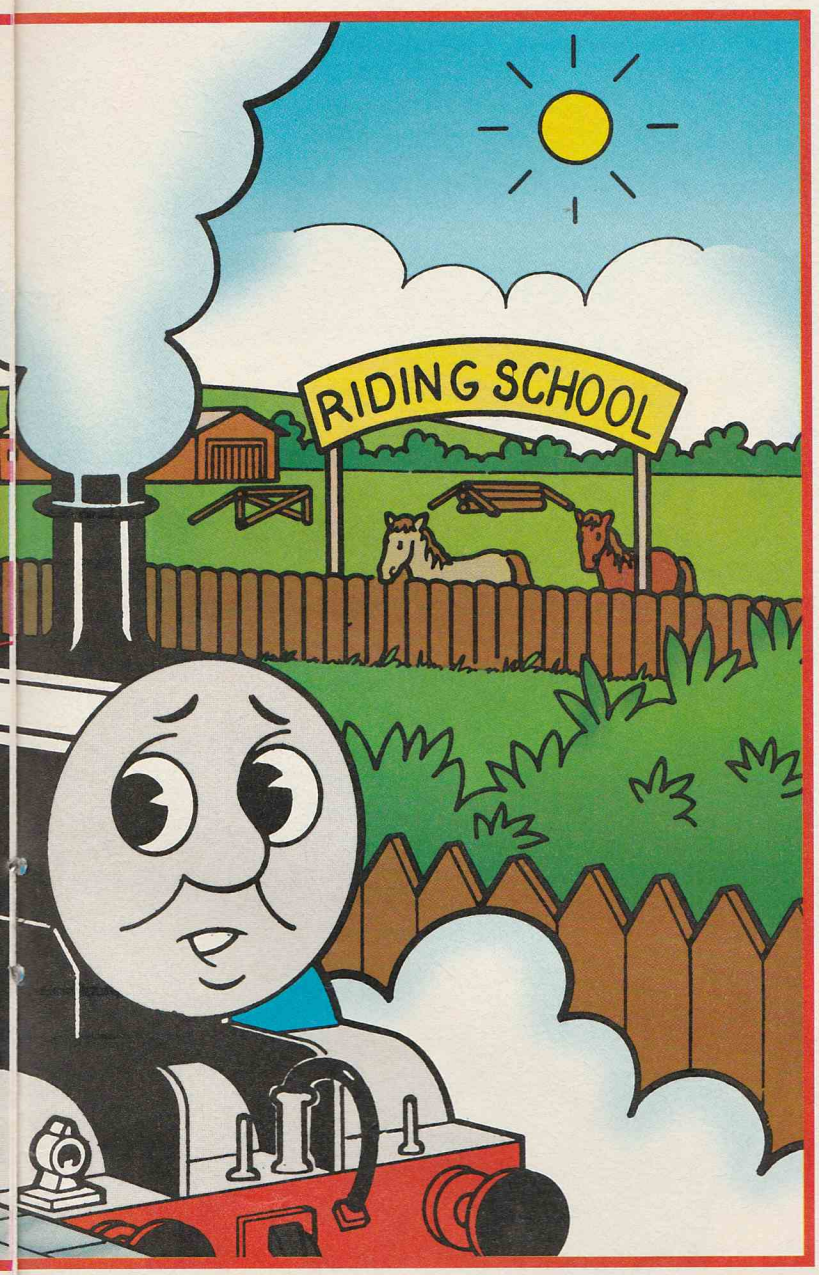
"It's supposed to be lucky," he told Thomas.

"That one wasn't," replied

Thomas. "It's made me late for my passengers."

At last, he arrived at the next station. There was a riding school close by. The owner and her daughter, Jo, had come to meet Thomas. They looked very worried.

"Star, one of our horses, has run off," the lady told Thomas's driver. "We can't find him anywhere!"



"Have you seen a horse?" asked Jo.

"We saw a horseshoe!" Thomas called to his driver.

"Oh, yes! I'd forgotten," said the fireman, showing the bent horseshoe to the lady.

"Star could have lost this shoe!" said Jo, excitedly. "He may have crossed the railway line!"

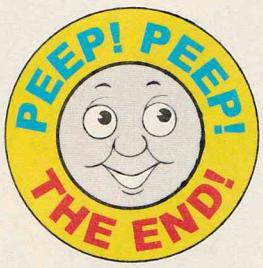
Thomas was about to turn round to head back to the Main Station. Jo and her mother climbed into his guard's van to look for Star on the way. Thomas steamed to the spot where the horseshoe had been found. When they got there, they saw a horse grazing contentedly in a meadow.

"Look!" cried Jo, pointing. "It's Star! He's safe!"

Thomas braked and Jo fetched Star. He was quite well, although one of his shoes was missing.

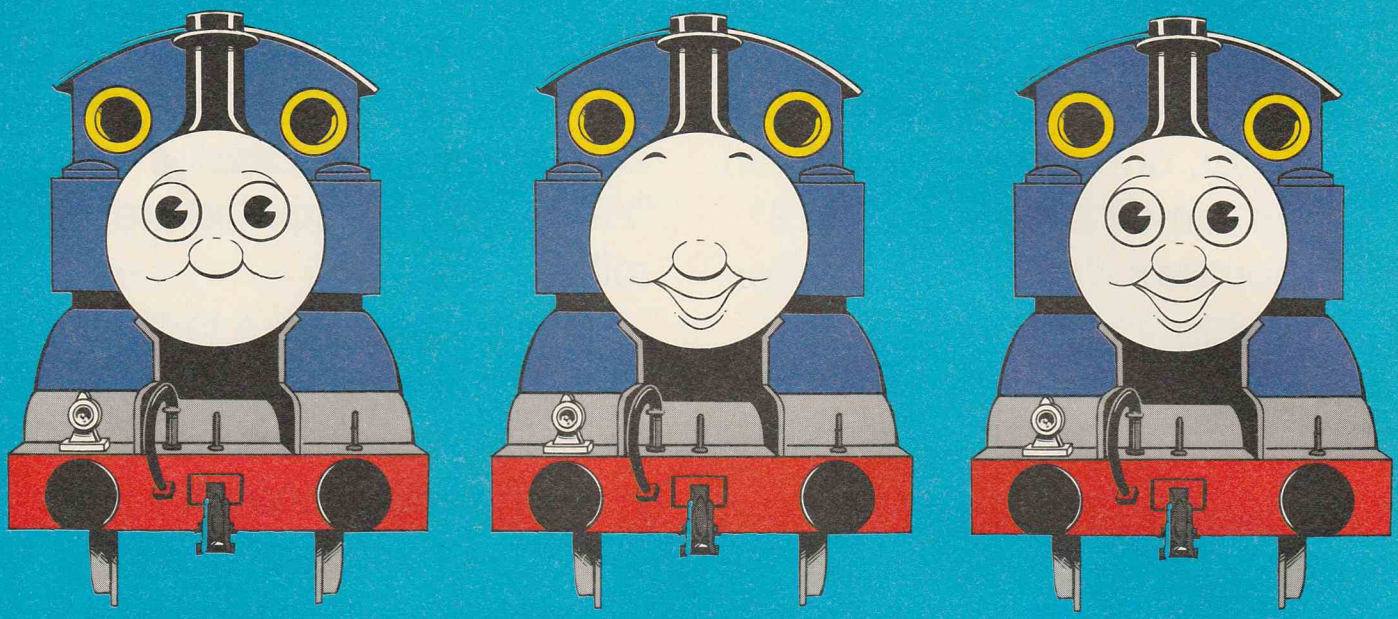
"Thank you for helping us find him," Jo said to Thomas and his crew.

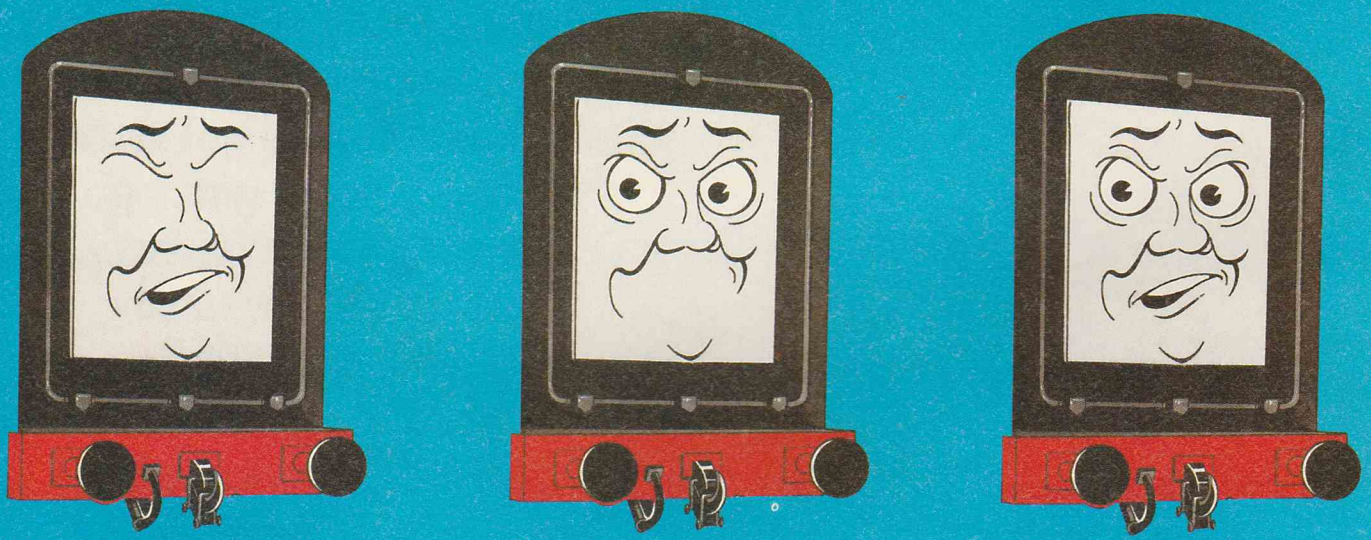
"It seems that horseshoe **was** lucky, after all," said Thomas.

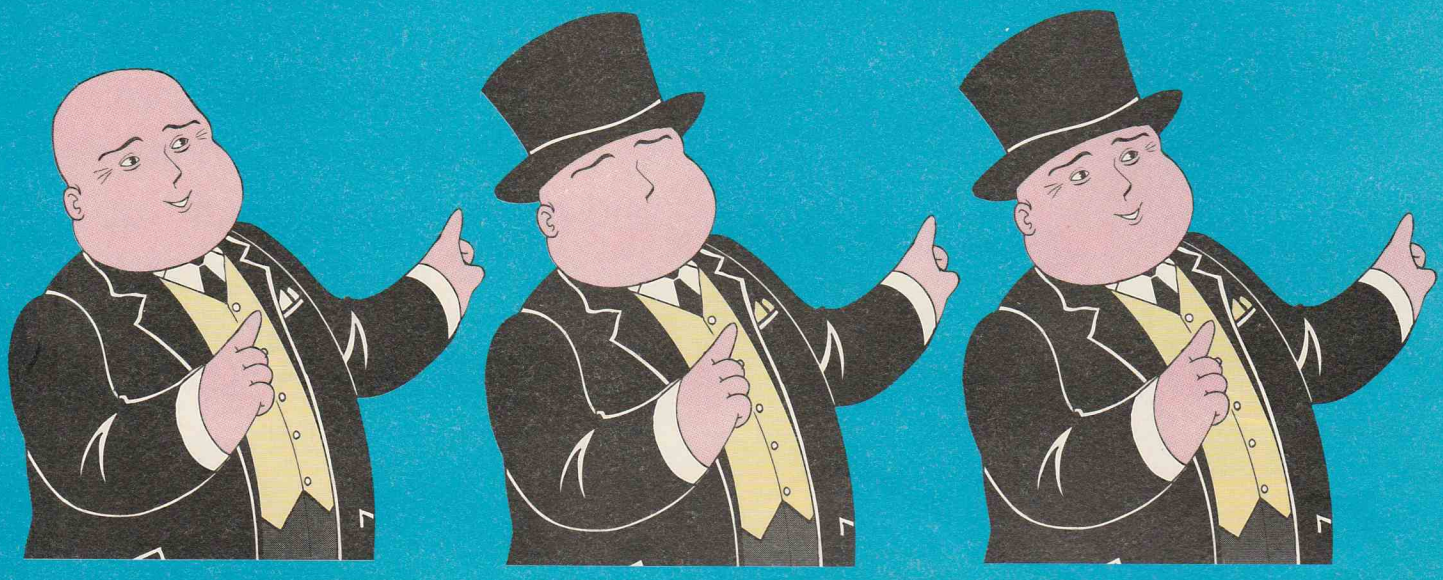


Art class!

Practise your drawing skills! Look at the finished drawings of Thomas, Diesel and the Fat Controller. Use them as a guide to complete the other pictures.





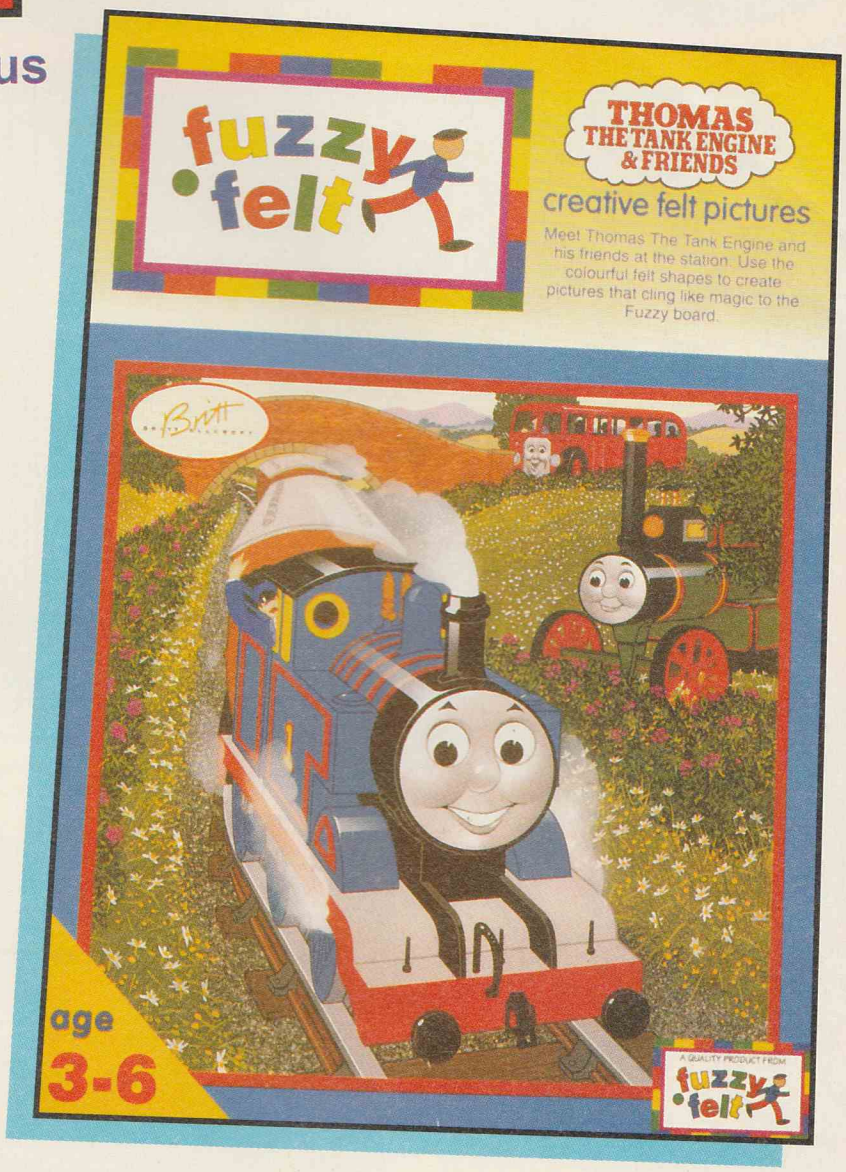


Competition!

With these fabulous **Fuzzy Felt sets**, you can create a colourful picture of Thomas and his friends. Your picture will cling like magic to a fuzzy board! We have 35 sets to give away to our lucky winners.

To win one of these splendid prizes, just answer the following question:

What is Duck's real name?



Send your answer, along with your name, age and address, on a postcard to:
Thomas/Fuzzy Felt competition, Heart Fashions and Designs,
37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands, WS9 9LR.

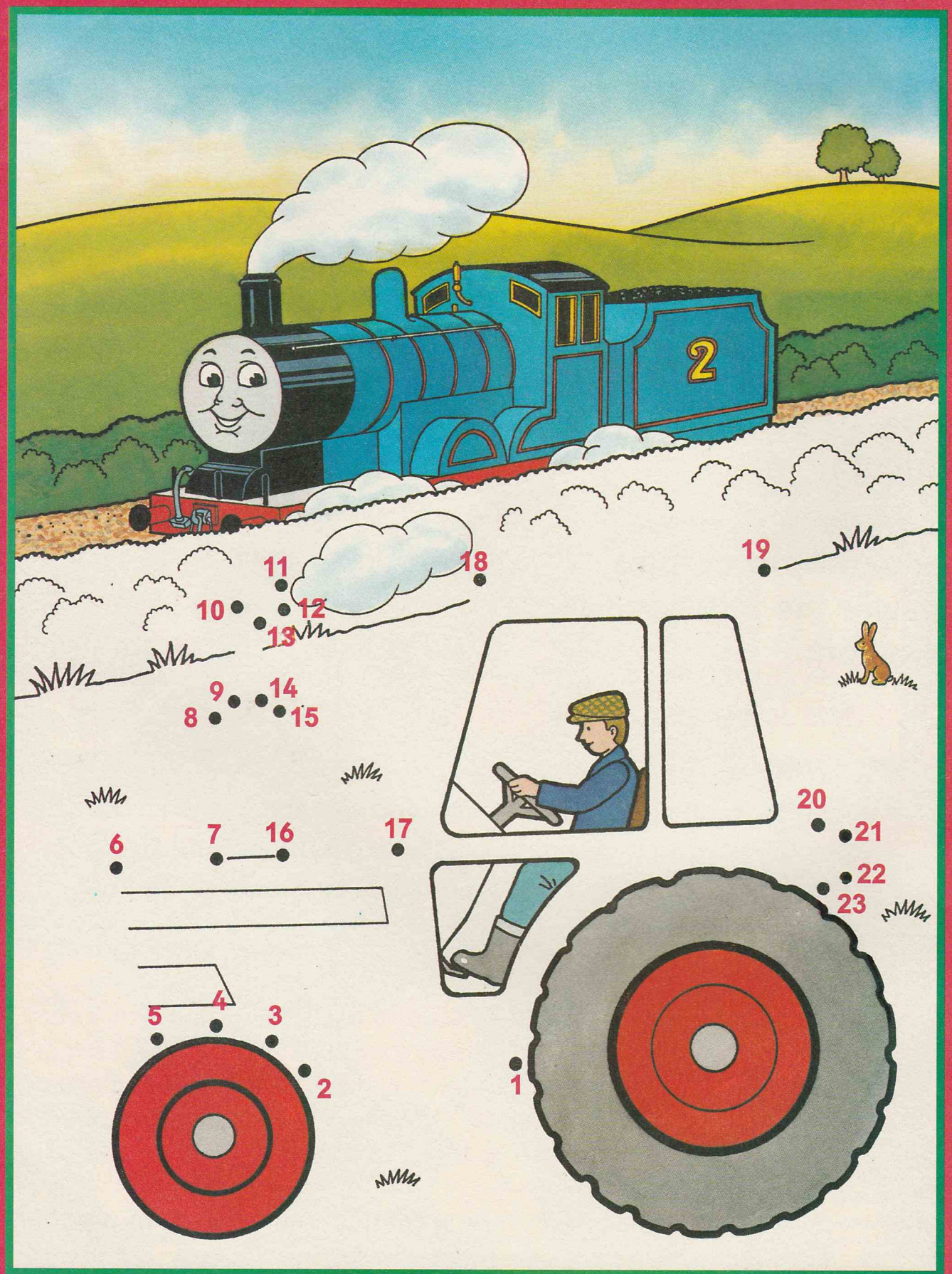
The closing date for entries is 14th February 1996.

Heart Fashions and Designs stock over 100 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your FREE copy, telephone 01543 377182, quoting reference 217, or write to them at the competition address above.

This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Marvel Comics Limited and Heart Fashions and Designs. All prizes will be distributed via the manufacturer. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

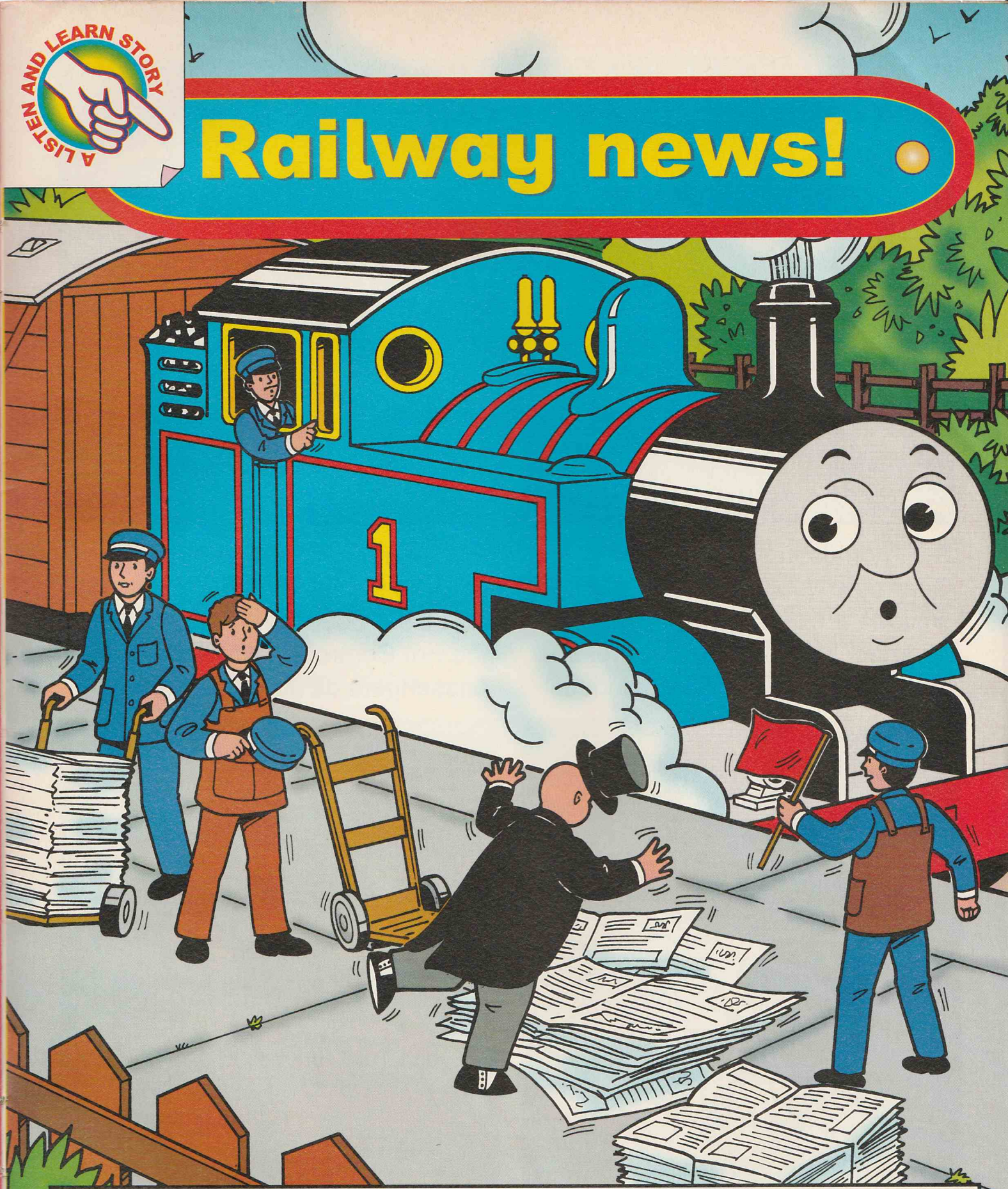
Join the dots

This farmer is working hard in his field. Can you guess what he's driving? Join the dots and you'll soon find out!



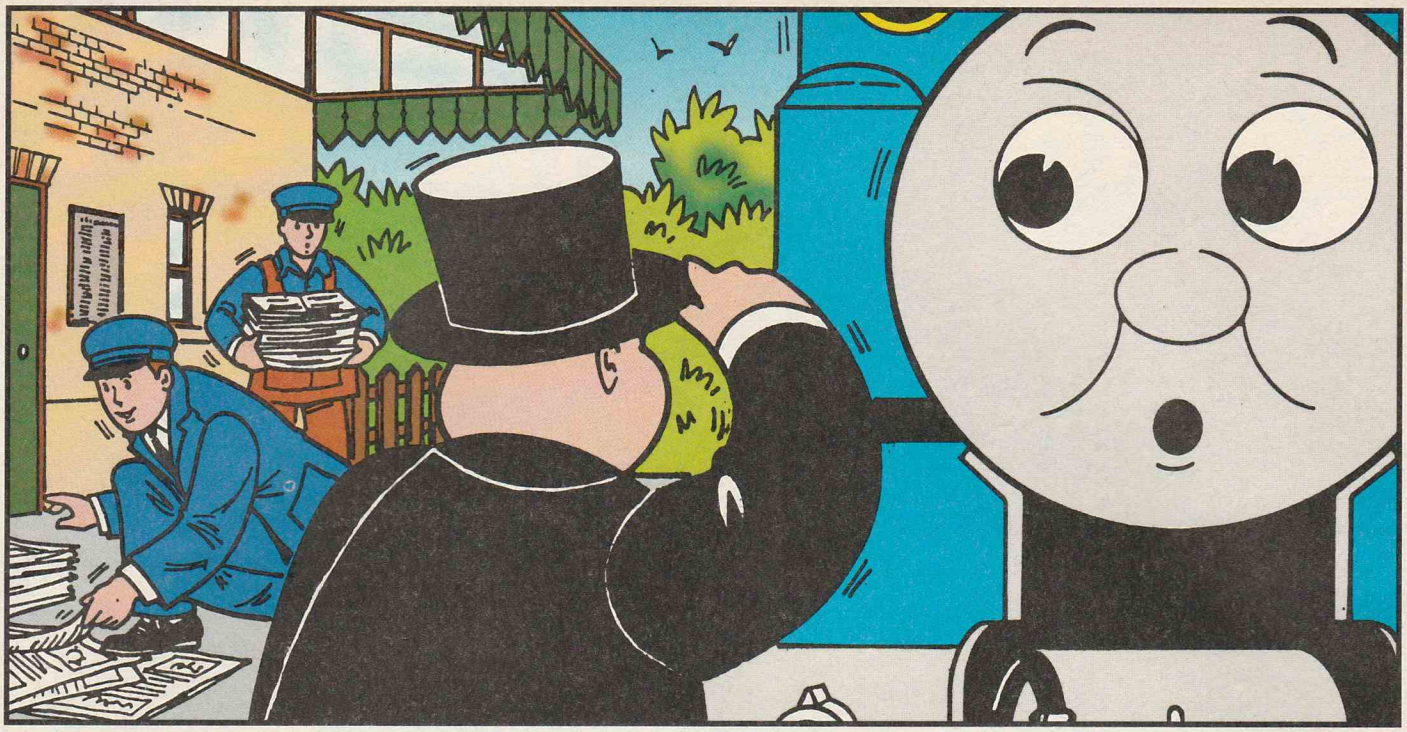
A LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

Railway news!



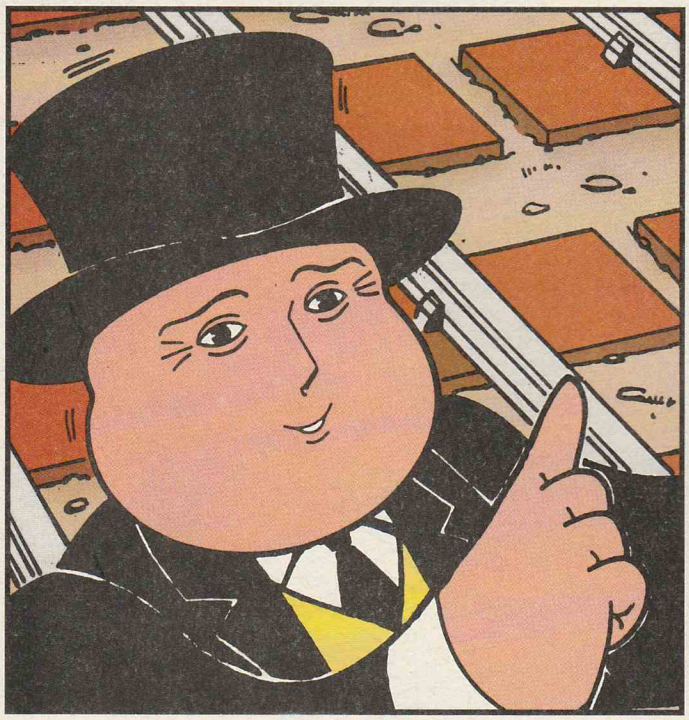
1. Thomas was up bright and early to take the morning newspapers all over the Island of Sodor. The Fat Controller was already working busily, too.

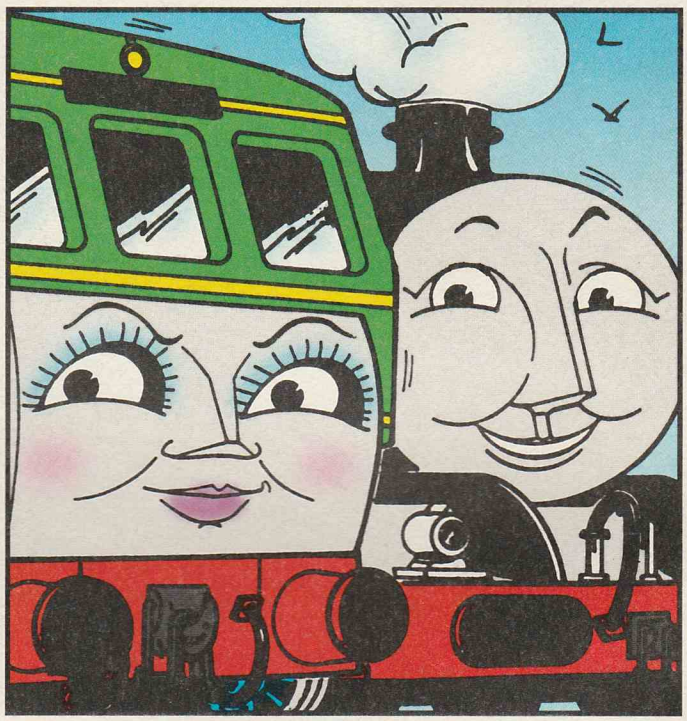
2. Suddenly, a bundle of newspapers broke open. They fell everywhere. The Fat Controller heard the noise. He hurried outside and nearly tripped over a paper.



3. Thomas thought the Fat Controller would be cross. But he smiled. "It wasn't your fault, Thomas," said the Fat Controller. "That's given me a splendid idea!"

4. Later, Thomas and the other engines heard what the idea was. "We'll start our own newspaper," the Fat Controller explained, "to tell passengers all about our railway!"



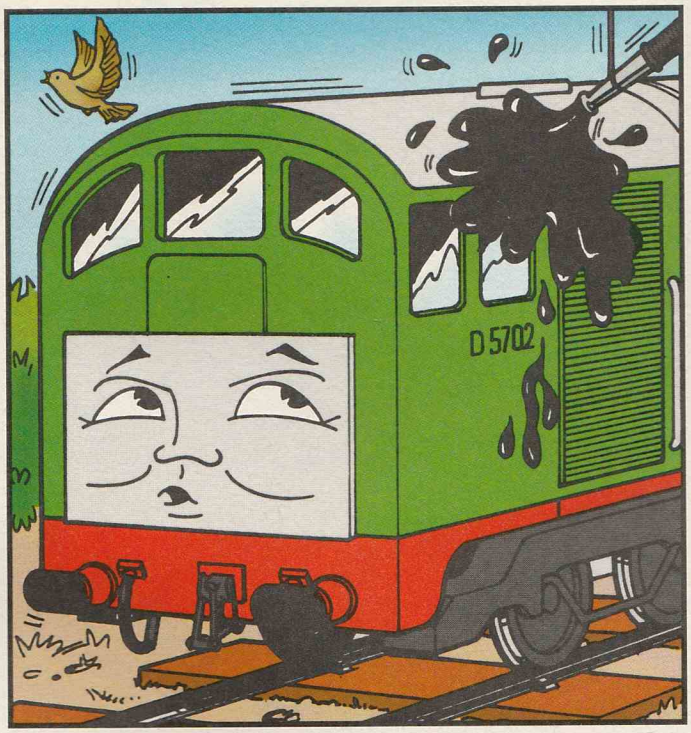


5. " 'The Sodor Railway News' will have stories about the engines and the important work you do," said the Fat Controller. "It will make our railway even more efficient."

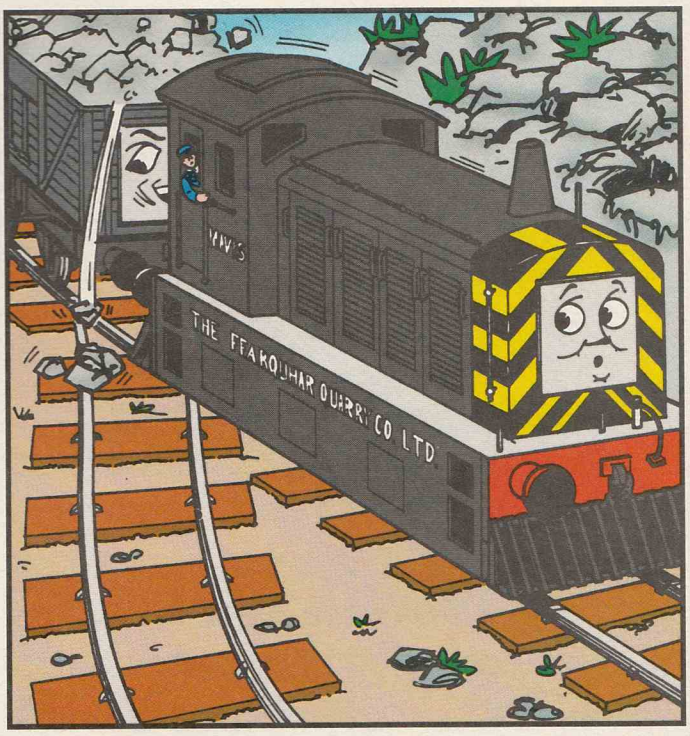
6. Thomas and the others were very excited. "A modern diesel railcar, like me, is big news," sniffed Daisy. "People will want to read about the Express," boasted Gordon.

7. All the engines wanted their names in the newspaper. So they worked even harder than usual. But things began to go wrong. Diesel went too fast with some trucks.

8. They rocked and rolled until one bounced off the rails and tipped over. Percy was very startled. He hit some buffers and burst a steam pipe so he couldn't work at all.



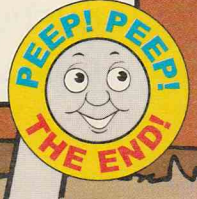
9. BoCo was filling with oil at the pump. He was in such a rush to get underway, he moved too soon. Oil gushed all over him and he lost time while he was wiped down.



10. On the quarry line, Mavis did her best to pull heavy trucks of rock quickly. But a big rock fell off onto the track and damaged some points. "Oh, no!" she cried.

11. On his branch line, Thomas wanted to make good time with a passenger train. He went so fast that his carriages bounced about wildly. Then Thomas approached a station much too quickly and could not stop. He overran the platform and had to back up again. It made Thomas late and some of his angry passengers complained.

12. "This won't do," said the Fat Controller when he heard the bad news. "We've never had so many delays on the railway!" He went to the engine shed. "Please, sir, who's first to be in 'Railway News'?" they asked. "No one," the Fat Controller replied, crossly. "I'm closing the paper before we start it. That way, my railway runs better!"



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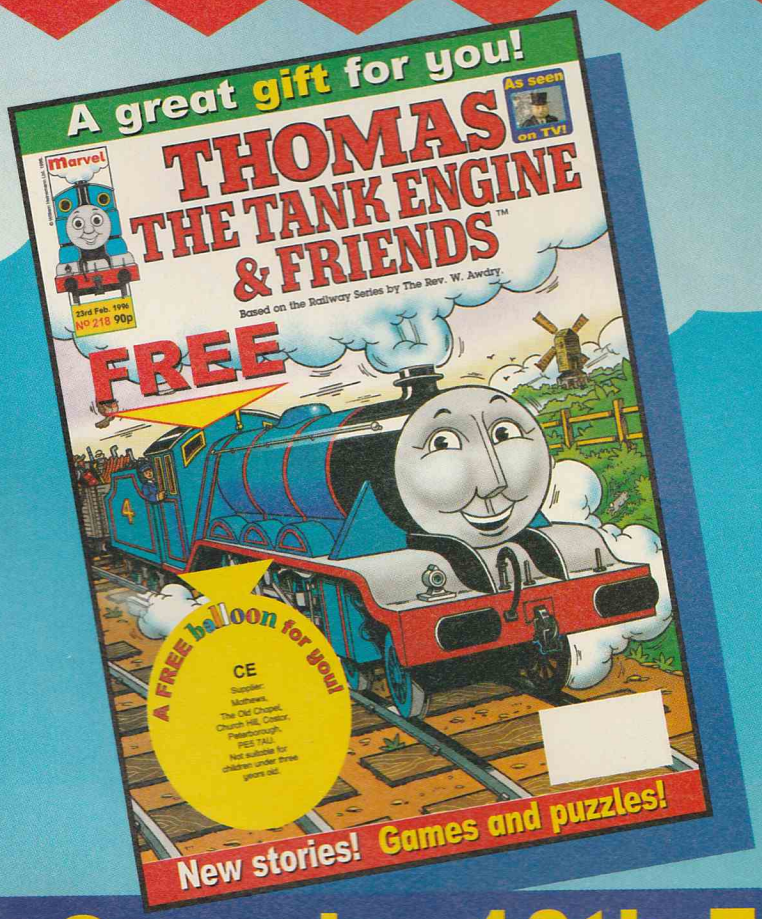

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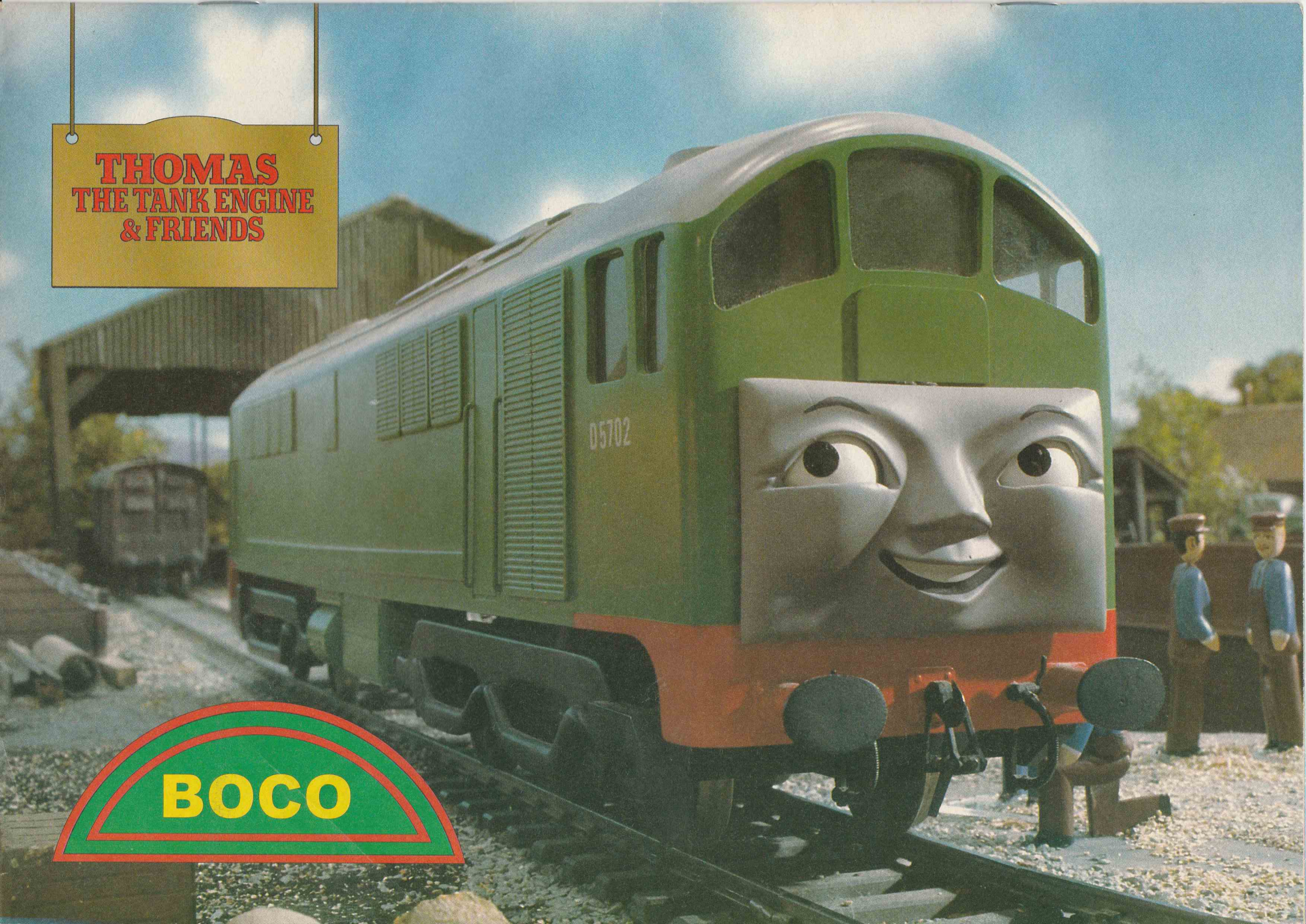
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